Amendment to the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital pilot signal;

framing the pilot signal into sequential frames each of a predetermined length from the received pilot signal, the data in each frame consisting of only pilot signal bits, wherein the predetermined length of the frames of the framed pilot signal is chosen so that a predetermined frame error rate of the sequential frames of the received pilot signal is associated with a constant predetermined frame error rate of a received fundamental channel;

comparing at least one frame with a known frame pattern of the pilot signal;

developing an error signal from the comparison step, wherein the error signal is ~~used~~ fed back to control transmission power of the pilot signal.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim1 wherein the error signal comprises a step-up signal that is transmitted to increase an E_b/N_0 power level of the pilot signal when the comparison step indicates that the at least one frame is different than the known pilot frame pattern, and a step-down signal that is transmitted to decrease the E_b/N_0 power level of the pilot signal when the comparison step indicates that the at least one frame is the same as the known pilot frame pattern.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the step up and step down signals are transmitted to increase and decrease the E_b/N_0 power level of the pilot signal so as maintain a predetermined frame error rate on the sequential frames of the received pilot signal.

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the error signal indicates a degree of mismatch between the framed pilot signal and the known pilot pattern and represents a measure of an uplink signal quality.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the magnitude of the error signal is used to determine whether communication should continue or should be discontinued.